

# Incident Requirements

WAC 296-824-500

## Summary

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

To conduct and manage emergency response operations  
so employees are protected from hazardous substances  
and conditions

### You must

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# Incident Requirements

WAC 296-824-500

## Rule

WAC 296-824-50005

Recognize emergencies and initiate a response

### You must

- Make sure employees follow procedures in your emergency response plan to:
  - Recognize when an emergency response must be initiated
  - Notify employees, and others designated in your plan, of the release
  - Follow immediate emergency procedures
  - Prevent the incident from increasing in severity or to secure the operation.

WAC 296-824-50010

Implement and maintain an incident command system (ICS)

### You must

- (1) Make sure a single individual, acting as the incident commander (IC), is in charge of the site-specific *incident command system (ICS)* and acts within their designated role and training level.



#### Note

- For multiemployer worksites:
  - The IC has responsibility for controlling emergency response operations at the site for all employers
  - Emergency response plans should be consistent in designating who assumes the IC position
- If the first employee arriving at the scene isn't trained as an IC (see Table 5, Competencies for Incident Commanders, WAC 296-824-30005), they may take control of the incident within their designated role and training level

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# Incident Requirements

WAC 296-824-500

## Rule

WAC 296-824-50010 (Continued)

### You must

- (2) Make sure all employers' emergency responders and their communications are coordinated and controlled by the IC.



Note:

The IC may delegate tasks to subordinates (within their training level).

- (3) Make sure each employer at the scene has designated a representative to assist the IC.
- (4) Establish security and control of the site as specified in your written emergency response plan.

WAC 296-824-50015

### Prepare skilled support personnel



Note:

The duties of skilled support personnel are described in Table 1, Roles and Duties of Emergency Responders.

### You must

- (1) Make sure that your skilled support personnel (including those employees who aren't regularly employed by you) who could be exposed to on-scene hazards are given an initial briefing at the site before they participate in any emergency response. The initial briefing must include:
  - What chemical hazards are involved
  - What duties are to be performed
  - Instruction in the wearing of appropriate personal protective equipment

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Incident  
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# Incident Requirements

WAC 296-824-500

## Rule

WAC 296-824-50015 (Continued)



Note:

Skilled support personnel don't need to comply with the other training requirements of this chapter.

### You must

- (2) Make sure the safety and health precautions given to your employees are also given to skilled support personnel.

WAC 296-824-50020

Make sure the incident commander oversees activities during the response

The employer of the incident commander (IC) must:

- (1) Identify all hazardous substances and conditions present, within their training level, using site analysis and maximum exposure limits, when appropriate.
- (2) Implement emergency response procedures appropriate to the hazardous substances and conditions present, such as:
  - Procedures that address the use of engineering controls, hazardous substance handling, and new technologies
  - Procedures that address decontamination
  - Procedures that address PPE
  - Procedures that limit the number of personnel to those who are actively performing emergency response operations, in areas where exposure could exist.

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# Incident Requirements

WAC 296-824-500

## Rule

WAC 296-824-50020 (Continued)

### You must

(3) Designate an incident safety officer (ISO).

- Make sure the ISO demonstrates knowledge about operations being implemented at the emergency response site. They must:
  - Identify and evaluate hazards
  - Communicate with the IC about hazards, immediately informing the IC of corrective actions that must be taken when conditions are judged to be:
    - An imminent danger
- OR
- Immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH).
- Provide direction about the safety of operations.

WAC 296-824-50025

### Use the buddy system in danger areas

### You must

- Make sure operations and tasks (including limited actions) in danger areas are conducted using the buddy system in teams of two or more.



#### Definition:

Danger areas are areas where conditions pose a serious danger to employees, such as areas where:

- Immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) conditions could exist.
- OR
- High levels of exposure to toxic substances could exist.
- OR
- There is a potential for exceeding the *lower explosive limit (LEL)*, also known as the *lower flammability limit (LFL)*, of a hazardous substance.

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# Incident Requirements

WAC 296-824-500

## Rule

WAC 296-824-50030

Provide rescue and medical assistance

### You must

- (1) Provide stand-by employees equipped with the same level of personal protective equipment (PPE) as the entrants, for assistance or rescue.



#### Note:

- The buddy system applies to stand-by employees (see WAC 296-824-50025).
- One of the two stand-by employees can be assigned to another task provided it doesn't interfere with the performance of the stand-by role.
- Rescue equipment should be selected and provided based on the types of rescue situations that could occur.

### You must

- (2) Make sure employees trained in first aid are readily available with necessary medical equipment and have a way to transport the injured.



#### Note:

- Employee training is covered by WAC 296-800-150, first aid. This rule requires training on the 18 subjects listed in addition to any subjects that are specific to your workplace emergency hazards (for example: If exposure to corrosive substances could occur, training would need to include first-aid procedures for treating chemical burns).
- Employers who designate and train their employees to provide first aid are covered by WAC 296-62-08001 through 296-62-08005, bloodborne pathogens.

